

# The Watchman and Southron.

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"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

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British Defeated Again.

Mowed Down by Flank Fire Before They Could Form For Defense.

North of Modder River, Monday, Dec 11—Early yesterday evening the

troops of the Highland brigade moved from the Modder river camp, marching in the night, in a north westerly direction. The objective of the Highlanders was the eastern spur of the Boer position, the Guards following the bank of the river, while the

Yorkshire Light Infantry moved along the riverbank. Just before daybreak the Highlanders arrived with within 200 yards of the Boer entrenchments at the foot of a hill.

Unsuspecting that the Boers were in the vicinity, the British were still marching in column in close order, when they met a terrible fire from the flanks and were forced to retire with heavy loss.

The troops reformed under the shelter of some rising ground and gallantly held their position.

Later the Gordons arrived and the troops gradually worked their way until within 500 yards of the Boer position, displaying the greatest gallantry. In the meanwhile, a naval gun at the Modder river, the Howitzer batteries and the Horse Artillery opened a terrible fire, enfilading the trenches and mowing every portion of the Boer position. The Boers were entirely silent. In the meanwhile the Boers, on the open ground directly in front, moved with the object of making a flank attack. But this was frustrated by the Guards and artillery.

The Boers recommenced shelling in the evening but no damage was done. The British slept on their position. It is expected there will be a renewal of the fighting tomorrow. The losses on both sides were very heavy.

REPORTED BY METRUEN.

London, Dec 13.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Gen Methuen, dated Tuesday, Dec 12:

"Our artillery shelled a very strong position held by the enemy in a long, high kopje from 4 until dusk Sunday. It rained hard last night. The Highland brigade attacked at daybreak Monday the south end of the kopje. The attack was properly timed but failed. The Guards were ordered to protect the Highland's right and rear. The cavalry and mounted infantry, with a Howitzer artillery battery, attacked the enemy on the left and the Guards on the right, supported by field artillery and Howitzer artillery. They held the position from daybreak, and at 1.15 I sent the Gordons to support the Highland brigade. The troops held their own in front of the enemy's entrenchments until dusk, the position extending, including the kopje, for a distance of six miles toward the Modder river. Today I am holding my position and entrenching myself. I had to face at least 12,000 men. Our loss was great."

Gen Forestier-Walker, telegraphing from Cape Town at 3.30 p. m. today, sends the following dispatch from Lord Methuen, dated Modder river, Tuesday, Dec 12, 7.30 p. m.

"The Boers occupied their trenches strongly this morning. I retired in perfect order here, where I am in security."

"I have gathered from some of the prisoners and from our men with the ambulances who talked with the Boers, that the enemy's losses were terrible, some corps being completely wiped out."

"The Boers have been most kind to my wounded."

GEN WAUCHOPE KILLED

London, Dec 13.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Gen Forestier Walker:

"Cape Town, Tuesday, Dec 12—Methuen wires that Gen Wauchope was killed in action yesterday."

Gen Wauchope of the Black Watch commanded the Highland brigade with Gen Methuen's column. He served in Ashanti, Egypt, and the Sudan. He was frequently mentioned in dispatches and twice contested Middlethorpe, once against Mr Gladstone. He was a great favorite in the army.

Modder River, Dec 12.—The British casualties included the Marquis of Winchester, major of the second

battalion Coldstream Guards, who was killed, and Col Downham of the First battalion Gordon Highlanders, who was mortally wounded.

When the Highlanders met the murderous point-blank fire of the Boers about 200 were mown down. The Black watch regiment on reforming was able to muster only 160 men.

The Boers lost heavily in the trenches and also in the wire entanglements when they came into the open in an attempt to make a flank attack on the British.

The terrific British artillery fire provoked no response except from the Boer rifles until nearly 4 o'clock in the afternoon when the Gordon Highlanders formed to renew the attack on the entrenched kopje.

They advanced with the utmost gallantry to attack the Boers, close to the place where lay their dead and wounded comrades of the Highland brigade.

The enemy opened with a heavy shrapnel fire as the British advanced and it was found physically impossible to take the Boer trenches. The British got within 200 yards but could not get nearer. It was here that Col Downham fell.

DETAILS OF THE BATTLE.

London, Dec 15, 4.45 a. m.—The war office is still without news from Ladysmith other than that already published. The general belief was that the large Boer force Lord Methuen encountered at Magersfontein were partly drawn from Natal and that General Buller will strike a blow before these have time to return.

Modder River, Cape Colony, Tuesday, Dec 12.—Details gathered here by a representative of The Associated Press among the wounded British and Boers give some idea of the desperate nature of the fight at Magersfontein. The Highlanders did all that the most gallant troops in the world could do, but it was impossible to face the terrible fire of the Boers. The British artillery again saved the situation and divided the honors of the day with the Scots. The batteries worked for hours under galling rifle fire.

According to the Boer stories it was impossible for the burghers to have escaped fearful loss. One Boer prisoner said a single Lyddite shell killed or wounded over 70 and that two other shells burst over two bodies of Boers ensconced behind the range, doing fearful damage. All agree that the Boer fought throughout with the utmost gallantry. Their sharpshooters seldom missed the mark.

A Scottish Highlander says that while he was lying wounded on the field he saw a Boer of typical German appearance, faultlessly dressed, with polished top boots, a shirt with silk ruffles and a cigar in his mouth, walking among the ant hills picking off the British. He was quite alone and it was apparent from the frequent use he made of field glasses that he was singling out officers. Another wounded Boer says that a Lyddite shell, fired Sunday, fell in the middle of an open air prayer meeting held to offer supplication for the success of the Boer arms.

All the wounded are full of praise for the treatment they received from the medical department on the battlefield.

While the Guards were advancing on the plain which the Boers were shelling from the adjoining ridges, they encountered and out up a stronger Boer picket posted on a hill, for purposes of observation. All of the members of the picket were either killed, wounded or taken prisoners.

DEAD NEAR THE TRENCHES.

Modder River, Wednesday, Dec 13.—Ambulances started early yesterday morning, under a flag of truce, to collect the wounded and bury the dead who fell at Magersfontein.

Brig Gen Wauchope, who led the Highland brigade, was found dead near the trenches, shot in the chest and thigh. A few wounded were found near the trenches. Several wounded Boers were taken to the British hospital.

The side of the hill and the immediate neighborhood of the Boer trenches showed dead bodies all about. One wounded Boer informed a correspondent of The Associated Press that their losses were terrible. The whole Scandinavian contingent was destroyed. Judging from information gleaned from the Boer wounded and from prisoners taken in different parts of the field, the Boer losses must exceed 700. The destruction wrought by the naval guns was enormous.

Word was passed along the Boer lines to prepare to retreat at nightfall. All confess that it was their greatest loss during the war.

The British troops have returned to Modder river, owing to the lack of water near the position held yesterday.

A COMPLETE SURPRISE

London, Dec 15.—The correspond-

ent of The Standard at Modder river, describing the fight at Magersfontein, says: "Six miles had to be covered before the Highlanders brigade could reach the Boer stronghold. It is not yet clear through what mischance the force, which was led by guides, came upon the Boer trenches so unexpectedly and so suddenly."

"Beyond question the Boers were aware of the approach of the British and had prepared to receive them. According to one version two Highlanders, through nervousness or clumsiness, discharged their rifles prematurely; but it is equally probable that the advance Boer scouts conveyed the intelligence."

"Our men were totally unprepared. They had not even fixed bayonets. The disaster was all the more exasperating because of the consciousness that had the brigade been extended and with fixed bayonets, the trenches might have been successfully rushed with far less sacrifice of life."

SEVEN HUNDRED CASUALTIES.

London, Dec 14.—A revised list of the total casualties to the British troops of all arms at Magersfontein places the number at 832.

There were fifteen officers killed and four (?) wounded and in addition five are missing and one is known to have been made prisoner.

The war office has received a message stating that there were 650 casualties among the non-commissioned officers and men of the Highland brigade at Magersfontein.

The brigade lost 10 officers killed, 38 wounded and 4 missing.

GEN FRENCH HAS SKIRMISH

London, Dec 14.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Gen Forestier-Walker at Cape Town:

"Gen French wires, under date of Dec 12, reporting a skirmish at 4 o'clock in the morning with 1,800 Boers who were advancing south toward Naauwpoort. The skirmishing continued all the morning, the Boers fighting on a front of 14 miles. The enemy retired with a loss of 40 killed and wounded. Our casualties were one killed, seven wounded, including one officer, and two missing."

BULLER LOSES 11 FIELD PIECES, MANY MULES AND MORE MEN.

London, Dec 16, 12.47 a. m.—The war office has received a dispatch announcing that Gen Buller has met with a serious reverse, losing ten guns.

Gen Buller was attempting to cross the Tugela river. Finding it impossible to effect his object, he ordered a retirement in order to avoid greater losses. He left 11 guns behind.

The following is the text of Gen Buller's dispatch announcing his reverse:

"Buller to Lansdowne: Chiefly Camp, Dec 15, 6.20 p. m.—I regret to report a serious reverse. I moved in full strength from our camp near Chiefly at 4 o'clock this morning. There are two fordable places in the Tugela river, and it was my intention to force a passage through at one of them. They are about two miles apart."

"My intention was to force one or the other with one brigade, supported by a central brigade. Gen Hart was to attack the left drift, Gen Hildyard the right road and Gen Lyttleton was to take the centre and to support either. Early in the day I saw that Gen Hart would not be able to force a passage, and I directed him to withdraw. He had, however, attacked with great gallantry and his leading battalion, the Connaught Rangers, I fear, suffered a great deal. Col I. G. Brooke was seriously wounded."

"I then ordered Gen Hildyard to advance, which he did, and his leading regiment, the East Surrey, occupied Colenso station and the houses near the bridge. At that moment I heard the whole artillery I had sent to support the attack—the Fourteenth and Sixty-sixth Field batteries and six naval 12 pounder quick-fires—under Col Long, had advanced close to the river in Long's desire to be within effective range. It proved to be full of the enemy, who opened a glancing fire at close range, killing all their horses, and the gunners were compelled to stand to their guns. Some of the wagon teams got shelter for troops in a donga, and desperate efforts were made to bring out the field guns."

"The fire, however, was too severe, and only two were saved by Captain Schelfield and some drivers whose names I will furnish."

"Another most gallant attempt with three teams was made by an officer whose name I will obtain. Of the 18 horses 13 were killed and as several drivers were wounded I would not allow another attempt, as it seemed that they would be a shell mark, sacrificing life to a gallant attempt to force the passage unsupported by artillery. I directed the troops to withdraw, which they did in good order."

## CAPT G. W. SHELL DIES SUDDENLY.

Had Represented His District in Congress Four Years.

Special to The State.

Laurens, Dec 15.—Capt George Washington Shell died suddenly at 2 o'clock this afternoon at his home three miles from this city. He was here a while yesterday on his way home from Greenville, where he had been on business pertaining to his office, district census supervisor, and while there had an attack of something like cramps, but soon recovered sufficiently to travel and immediately came home. A second attack today, which probably affected the heart, proved too much for his then weakened condition to withstand and he expired almost suddenly.

Capt Shell retired from public life in 1895 and has since devoted his time to farming on a modern and extensive scale. His appointment as district census supervisor was confirmed only a few days ago and he was in the discharge of his new office when the summons came.

Capt Shell was 70 years old, a man of pleasing address and marked ability.

The funeral will be held tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock from Chestnut Ridge Baptist church, of which he was a lifelong member.

Everybody here was shocked and pained at the suddenness of his demise and general sorrow is felt.

W. L. T.

SKETCH OF HIS LIFE

George Washington Shell, the author of the famous shell manifesto that marked the inauguration of the Tillman revolution, was born in Laurens county Nov 13, 1831. He obtained his early education in the common schools and the Laurens academy, attending the latter one year. At 16 years of age he came to Columbia, and for two years was a clerk to Andrew Crawford. He returned to Laurens and farmed for a year, losing his wife at the end of that year—1855. The next two years he engaged in mercantile business in the town of Laurens. Then he became superintendent of the Laurens railroad and held it for a year and a half, resigning and going to New York. He took a position as a collector and remained for about six months, returning to his home just prior to the breaking out of the war.

He was among the first to enter the Confederate army, enlisting as a private in Co A of the Third South Carolina. The first year of his service he was private secretary to Gen Bonham, who commanded the brigade. Then he became second lieutenant of his company. The day after his promotion he was made quartermaster of his regiment, then commanded by Col Nance. He was in this position for a year and then became division quartermaster, serving about the same length of time. Then he was assigned to duty with the chief quartermaster of the Army of Northern Virginia, at Gen R. E. Lee's headquarters, serving there from September, 1864, until the surrender. He was entitled to the rank of major, but never received that rank.

After the war Capt Shell returned to Laurens and went on the farm which has always been his home. In 1882 he was elected clerk of the court of his county, holding the office for eight years. Then came along the political revolution of 1890 in South Carolina. Capt Shell was B. R. Tillman's chief lieutenant in the fight, and he it was who penned the famous "Shell Manifesto" of 1890, a document that will ever remain prominent in the political history of the State. Prior to issuing this document Capt Shell had been a member of the State Democratic executive committee—1886-87. In 1888 he was chosen president of the farmers' Association of South Carolina, and a later fired the opening gun of the Tillman campaign in the shape of the manifesto. The political revolution landed Capt Shell in congress from the Fourth district in 1890, and when his term ended he was given another, after which he retired to private life.

Capt Shell was twice married, first, in 1851, Miss Mary Dial of Laurens county. They had one son, who died. Mrs Shell died in 1859, his second wife being Miss Ellen Watts Hill of Abbeville county. The fruit of this marriage was 10 children, two of whom died this fall. Mr Shell was the eldest child of his parents. He leaves a sister, Mrs W. J. Cathcart of Columbia, and a brother, Warren, who is now very ill.

The revenue officers have been instructed to report for trial all merchants who fail to cancel stamps on empty cigar boxes. The fine is \$50. This is frequently forgotten by a dealer.

## Brumby's Ancestors Were Carolinians.

Descended From the Haynsworths of Sumter County.

To the Editor of The State:

Lieutenant Thomas M. Brumby is Georgia's ranking hero of the Spanish American war, and last October he was paid a high, but deserved compliment in the city of Atlanta by being presented with a handsome sword of honor by Georgia's governor on behalf of that commonwealth. The day was marked by other features of an interesting and striking character, an account of which appeared in the press dispatches at the time. It was a proud occasion for the progressive city of Atlanta.

In The State of September 24, there appeared a chatty, bright little article about the lieutenant and his parents. As a supplement to that article I will give a sketch of Lieutenant Brumby's ancestry and will begin by saying that he is descended from the old and well known Haynsworth family of South Carolina.

Richard Haynsworth (or Hainsworth, as the name appears to have been originally spelled) was the founder of this family in our State. We find his name mentioned in the old records, where we learned that he was paid by the colonial government for "entertainments of Indians."

One of Richard Haynsworth's daughters—Margaret by name—was married twice—first to Mason Greening, afterwards to Peter Mellett. Mr Greening came from Virginia, and we are informed that he was "a gentleman of influence."

By her first husband, Mrs Greening was the mother of two children, a son and daughter. This daughter, Susannah Greening born in December 1774, just at the time the storm of the revolution was preparing to break forth, was married to Thomas Brumby in 1791. He was an Englishman, who left that country at an early age for America.

Richard T. Brumby was a son of Thomas and Susannah Brumby. For many years he was connected with the University of Alabama, and was afterwards connected with the South Carolina College. That eminent English geologist, Sir Charles Lyell, entertained a high opinion of Prof Brumby's scientific attainments. In his "Travels in the United States, Second Visit," he gives a very readable account of an examination of the Alabama coal fields, which he made in company with Prof Brumby in February, 1846. In this examination, a considerable scope of country was passed through, and Sir Charles formed a poor opinion of the Alabama roads, as the following extracts from his writings will show: "We traveled in a carriage with two horses, and could advance but a few miles a day, so execrable and often dangerous was the state of the roads."

An appreciable notice of Professor Brumby will be found in Mr Willis Clark's "History of Education in Alabama" and a full sketch in Dr M. LaBorde's "History of the South Carolina College." I would advise any one who has a copy of this latter work to carefully peruse this excellent sketch. From it I gather the following facts about the gifted man:

Prof R. T. Brumby was born in Sumter district in 1804. He was an earnest student when a young man, and graduated at the South Carolina College in 1824, with first honor. He became a lawyer and finally settled in Tuscaloosa, Ala., where he edited a newspaper. The very month in which he attained the age of 30 years, "he was" (to use the language of LaBorde) "most unexpectedly elected to the chair of chemistry, mineralogy and geology, in the University of Alabama." This was in August, 1834. He continued with this university until January, 1849, when he removed to Columbia, where he was professor in the South Carolina College. His health finally broke down, and he was unable to discharge his duties, but the trustees were unwilling to give him up, so he remained with the college a year longer, but as he did not regain his health, his resignation was accepted in December, 1856. To show Prof Brumby's attainments we cannot do better than to quote the following from LaBorde: "Prof Brumby's labors in the University of Alabama were of the most valuable character, and reflected the highest honor upon him." Speaking of his connection with the South Carolina College, LaBorde says: "He was always to be found in the laboratory. There he toiled with laborious, persevering industry, amid chemicals, shells and fossils."

Col A. V. Brumby, brother of the preceding, was the father of Lieutenant Brumby. As a pretty full notice of him has already appeared in your columns, I will only make a passing allusion to him here. Through the influence of John C. Calhoun, Arnoldus V. Brumby was placed at West Point, where he graduated, and like his distinguished brother, he became an educator. He was connected with the University of Alabama, and afterwards founded the Georgia Military Institute.

Such is a sketch of the ancestry of Thomas M. Brumby, the brave flag lieutenant of Admiral George Dewey.

McDonald Furman  
Ramsey, Privateer Township, Dec 12, 1899.

An Historic Building.

The Sons of the Revolution in Charleston celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of Washington's death Thursday by unveiling a tablet in the old postoffice building in Charleston, to the memory of the patriots executed there by order of the British government. The tablet recites the history of the building and the site on which it is located. In 1650 it was the guard post of the colony. In 1718 the pirates were imprisoned there. In 1767 taxed tea was stored there and forcibly detained. In 1774 the first provincial congress met there, forming the first independent government in America. In 1781 Isaac Hayne was led from that building to execution. In 1791 a grand ball was given there to Washington on his southern tour. It was then said to be the finest building in the colonies and the ball given there the grandest of that age.

The building was used as a custom house for many years, then as a post office. It is now used as an exchange. It will be preserved for its historical associations.

Orangeburg's Extra Court.

In accordance with the recommendation of the state supreme court, published a few days ago, Gov McSwain yesterday commissioned ex Circuit Judge J. H. Hudson to hold the special term of court in Barrow County commencing on the third Monday in February. This will be welcome news to the members of the Barrow bar, who have cases pending—The State, Dec 16.

The Seaboard Air Line has just bought the Bennett mill property in Charleston to use for depots. This makes \$70,000 that this road has paid for real estate in Charleston already.

The price of cotton justifies the belief that the cotton acreage next year will be greater than ever before. It is the very general understanding that the present crop will be a short one—not more than 9,500,000 bales certainly not more than 10,000,000 bales. A crop next year therefore will not necessarily mean 5 cents cotton again, though if the farmers are wise they will keep the acreage within reasonable limits by diversifying their crops—by giving a part of their time to such food crops as they need for their families and stock. They are confronted, however, with the statement that the fertilizer combine intends to demand much higher prices for fertilizers than the fertilizer manufacturers obtained last year.

It looks therefore as if the actual net profit in cotton next year would not be so great, even if the price should hold up and the yield be good. If there should be a crop failure, or if the price of cotton should fall below 6 cents a pound, the farmers would be in a very sorry plight. The fertilizer combine is stating through its agents that the reason the price of fertilizer is so much higher this season than it was last, is that the prices of the materials used in their manufacture have advanced greatly. To what extent this is true we do not know, but it seems to us that the commissioners of agriculture of the various cotton states could render the farmers a great service by investigating this statement. It is not a difficult matter to find out whether the advances in the price of fertilizers is largely arbitrary or is due wholly to the advance in the prices of the raw material—Aiken Recorder.

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